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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--24 FEBRUARY 1962

1. KEY SOVIET AMBASSADORS IN MOSCOW: IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY

HUDDLE MAY BE UNDERWAY:

THE SOVIET AMBASSADORS TO THE US, BRITAIN, FRANCE AND ITALY ARE ALL THERE NOW AND THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A NUMBER OF THE ENVOYS TO BLOC CAPITALS HAVE ALSO BEEN ON HAND RECENTLY. THIS IS ON TOP OF THE SUMMONING HOME OF ABRAMOV FROM LAOS AND PUSHKIN FROM THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. AMBASSADOR THOMPSON, WHO HAS NOTED THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, CABLES THAT SOME MAJOR TURN IN SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY SEEMS TO BE UPCOMING. THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED TO OPEN ON MARCH 5 IS SLATED TO CENTER ON AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS, BUT WE WOULD EXPECT ANY CRUCIAL FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS TO BE AIRED THERE ALSO.

2. CONGO:

A. TSHOMBE, ON THE CREST OF HIS RECENT REAL ESTATE GAINS IN NORTHERN KATANGA, YESTERDAY DECLARED HIS READINESS TO MEET WITH ADOULA IN LEOPOLDVILLE. HE NOW SAYS HE WILL SETTLE FOR UN, RATHER THAN US, SECURITY GUARANTEES. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN AIRLIFTING TROOPS INTO ALBERTVILLE, IN NORTHEAST KATANGA, BUT THE WAY THE OPERATION IS GOING IT WILL BE A MATTER OF MANY DAYS BEFORE A FORCE OF ANY CONSEQUENCE HAS BEEN ASSEMBLED.

[REDACTED]

B. THE RETAKING OF THE TERRITORY IN NORTHERN KATANGA BY TSHOMBE'S FORCES, IT NOW APPEARS, CAME ABOUT WHEN NATIONAL ARMY ELEMENTS THERE SIMPLY PULLED OUT BECAUSE OF A LACK OF PAY.

C. UN CHIEF GARDINER, RESPONDING TO AMBASSADOR GULLION'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ON THE KATANGA SITUATION, HAS PROFESSED HIMSELF IN FAVOR OF RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF THE UN.

3. LAOS:

SOUVANNA, IN CONSULTATION WITH WESTERN AMBASSADORS IN VIENTIANE, YESTERDAY CAME UP WITH A REVISED CABINET LIST WHICH COMES CLOSER TO US VIEWS ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE "NEUTRALIST" CENTER GROUPING. THE AMBASSADORS MADE THE POINT, ACKNOWLEDGED BY SOUVANNA, THAT HE WILL HAVE TO GET SOUPHANNOUVONG'S STAMP OF APPROVAL ON IT BEFORE WE GO TO WORK ON PHOUMI.

4. TURKEY:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE MORTGAGED MUCH OF ITS AUTHORITY TO THE MILITARY AS THE PRICE OF SURVIVAL.

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5. NATO REACTION ON CUBAN TRADE CONTROLS:

THE REACTION TO OUR PROPOSAL HAS SO FAR BEEN GENERALLY HESITANT WITH MOST MEMBERS REGISTERING MISGIVINGS ABOUT INTRODUCING NEW RESTRICTIONS UNTIL THE OAS COUNTRIES HAVE PUT EFFECTIVE CURBS INTO PRACTICE. MANY OF THEM CITE THE SMALLNESS OF THEIR CURRENT TRADE WITH CUBA AND SELF-IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON THE EXPORT OF ARMS AND STRATEGIC GOODS. THE DUTCH AND BELGIANS HAVE DONE SOME NEEDLING TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE FULL US SUPPORT IN THEIR PROBLEMS, BUT ONLY THE PORTUGUESE HAVE GONE BEYOND THIS TO HINT AT MORE, RATHER THAN LESS, TRADE WITH CUBA.

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6. NOTES:

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B. BRAZILIAN PRIME MINISTER NEVES' DAYS IN OFFICE SEEM TO BE NUMBERED. BOTH PRESIDENT GOULART AND HIS OWN PARTY WOULD LIKE TO DROP HIM. HIS ROLE HAS BEEN PRETTY THOROUGHLY FECKLESS.

C. PEIPING HAS BEEN STEPPING UP THE INDOCTRINATION OF CHINESE PARTY MEMBERS ALONG LINES DESIGNED TO PREPARE THEM FOR A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS.

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